



Rich Giallella

The name Rich Giallella generally means baseball to many in Mercer County. However, there was another side to his sporting persona as a standout soccer player during the 60's and 70's for Steinert and Rider College. For his many accomplishments, we welcome Rich Giallella into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.

A three sport athlete for the Spartans, Rich achieved All-City recognition in basketball and baseball, highlighted by a 1st team All-City berth as a goalkeeper in his senior year. Taking his formidable talents to Rider, he once again rose to the top. Rich scored 33 career goals for the Broncs while playing both in the goal and on the field. His 16 goals as a junior forward set a single-season mark that was only just recently broken. He also enjoyed success on the diamond, leading the Broncs to the College World Series in 1967.

After enjoying a stint in the Philadelphia Phillies organization, Rich returned to Steinert as a teacher in 1975, all while being an assistant coach under Russ Fager at Rider from 1975 through 1979. He then teamed with Paul Tessein as an assistant coach at for the Steinert boys soccer program for 18 years, helping to assemble some of the finest high school sides in Mercer County history. He was also a well- respected soccer official for many years.

Rich, along with his many accomplishments on the field, was a highly respected basketball referee on the college level, officiating a number of NCAA Tournament games over the years. A respected teacher, coach and administrator for 35 years, Rich has enjoyed the support of his wife and family, including four grandchildren in all of his endeavours. A member of the Steinert, Rider, and Middle Atlantic Conference Halls of Fame, we add one more tonight as we induct Rich Giallella into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame.